scribed the names of *subjects* who had distinguished themselves, thus beneath the statue of Edward III, would be found the names of Chaucer, "the Father of English Poetry," of Wickliff, "the Morning Star of the Reformation," and of Edward, "the Wise Churchman, the Pure Statesman," and one of the greatest architects of his country: and the illustrations would be extended by inscribing victories, as in the same reign, Crecy, Poictiers, Halidon, Nevill's Cross, &c. This will serve to shew how much of history may be expressed in a small space.

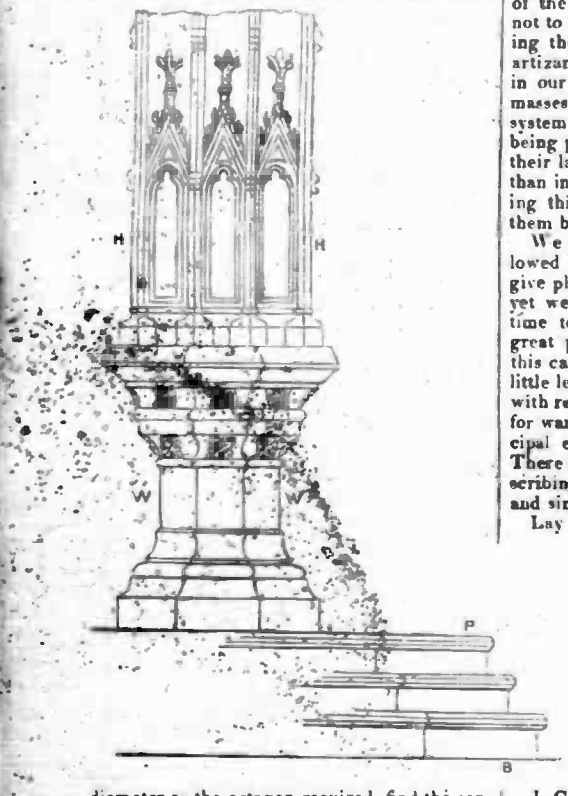
London, June 19, 1843. PHILO-TUDOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—Being a reader of your valuable work ever since its issue, and thinking there is many a good man lost to himself and society for want of the resolution to take a pencil in hand, and to break through the first difficulties of sketching and drawing, I have made bold to attempt the drawing of a font, of which W W is in stone, and H H of oak. There are many who, for want of courage, or perhaps encouragement in these things, turn their minds to something bad, and go on to be trodden under foot, and lead a life despairing of success.

If you think this worthy of insertion in THE BUILDER, I will send the upper part next week.

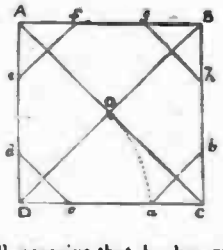
J. C.



[We have inserted this drawing, and with as much pleasure as the more perfect works of the finished draughtsman. Our business is not to delight and instruct merely, by exhibiting the productions of the skilled artist and artizan, but by a much more effectual method, in our opinion—by raising the minds of the masses, through a painstaking and patient system of tuition, which better consists in being pleased with, and taking an interest in, their laudable attempts to improve themselves, than in doing their work for them, or presenting things to their view in an aspect to deter them by a sense of the difficulty.

We hope the example of J. C. will be followed by thousands; and although we cannot give place to all their effusions or draughts, yet we shall be careful to select such, from time to time, as we think will answer the great purpose of an effectual schooling. In this case we take occasion to administer one little lesson, of service to J. C. and to many, with regard to the drawing of an octagon, and for want of the knowledge of which the principal error of J. C.'s draught has occurred. There are several ways of constructing or describing an octagon, but we will give a ready and simple one.

Lay down a square, A B C D, of the same



diameter as the octagon required, find the centre by drawing diagonal lines, then, with the distance from any angle of the square to the centre, mark off on the sides, as shewn at *a b c d*, &c., and joining these points by oblique lines, that is, cutting off the corners or angles of the square, as shewn in the diagram, the octagon is completed.

J. C. will perceive that he has represented the side divisions of his font as too large for an octagon; and there are other little points as to the outline of his mouldings, the ornaments, &c., which we could comment on, but not too much at a time. We have followed his drawings, and commend him for his resolution, in which we say, "Go on and prosper."—ED.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—In addition to the remarks I have already made on the new metropolitan Building Act, some of which are now incorporated with the amended copy, I beg farther to observe, as the subject by consideration becomes of more and more importance—

That it is desirable design be shackled as little as possible.

Clause 21 should, for many reasons, be omitted altogether.

Clause 24 is injudicious in fixing the size and description of windows in basements; let it be "a window opening at least four feet nine inches high, fitted in with a glazed casement or sash, at least one-half of which shall be made to open for ventilation." It is more necessary to provide for the escape of vitiated air than for the ingress of external air. I wish, therefore, that a ventilator could be provided in each chimney-breast, as near as possible to the top of the room.

Clause 25 in margin.—To "Regulating the heights of rooms" add "in roof."

All through the Act the word "obnoxious" is used instead of "noxious."

To clause 33 add "except such stables as shall have fire-proof floors and roofs."

In clause 35, in order to prevent the ascent of damp in walls, it will be better to have "the four courses of brickwork next above footings laid in cement, in party, external, and all other walls," instead of "below the level of bottom of timbers," &c.

Clause 43 in margin, instead of "purlin" "insert "quarter."

Again, "no joist to bear above fifteen feet." This will have the effect of injuriously contracting the size of rooms; let it therefore be "twenty feet," and add two or three inches to the depth of the joists, and direct rows of herring-bone strutting about five feet apart.

In clause 44, after "trimming-joist, beam, or girder," insert "being of timber," shall be, &c.

In clause 47, after "but shall be supported by a sufficient brick or stone pier," insert "or sufficient brick or stone arch on piers."

Clauses 79, 80, 81, and 82 should be inserted after clause 55.

The clauses regulating the depth of footings are wise provisions where there is no basement-floor, but where there is, six inches below the surface of such floor is just as well as twelve; in clauses 49 and 79, therefore, insert "six inches" instead of "twelve."

In clause 64, after "slate, tiles, metal, glass," insert "asphalte or other incombustible material." Without this addition to this clause, we can never have that best of all roofs,—a terrace roof—without a covering of lead or zinc, two of the most dangerous coverings in case of fire, the one from its melting and running down, thereby preventing all access to the building; the other, from its flying off in red hot particles, carrying destruction to every thing around.

In clause 65, line 18, after "in front or sides thereof," insert "but such flues may be carried on arches rising on piers from the foundation, provided such piers shew a face of at least nine inches from the inside of the external wall, and at least nine inches on each side the quarter partition dividing rooms." Thus there will be equal strength, without the extra thickness otherwise involved in this clause. Practically, the plan is of great utility, not only as carrying the chimneys without the necessity for corbelling out, but the arches covering the recesses on the sides of the chimney-breast support the joists, which latter are therefore not inserted in the wall, and the cornice is carried unbroken all round the room.

Clause 73 directs "all flues above roof to be nine-inch work." Most of the existing ancient chimneys which have withstood the storms of 200 years or more, are only four, five, or six inch work, although from twelve to sixteen feet high, and carrying heavy cornices; let, therefore, "nine inches" be altered to "four inches." It is probable that in a few years' time smoke will be entirely god rid of, and in that case flues one-fourth the present diameter will be amply sufficient both for ventilation and for carrying off the products of combustion.

The fees provided for the district surveyors are too much by one-half. These men are already among the best-paid part of the profession, existing without care, and with but little necessity comparatively for mental exertion. Many of the districts are too large, and might advantageously be divided. If this were done, it would also be advisable to give surveyors the power of removing from a poor to a richer district as such become vacant.

B.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—In your paper of this date there is a letter addressed to "A *Young* Architect," by "A Constant Reader and *Admirer* of his Taste," requesting to be informed "the cost of a cottage in the style given in No. 18."

I beg to observe the "Young Architect" will shew himself *young* indeed, if he gives this information without guarantee of remuneration.

If he does, the applicant will be thus furnished with plans and estimate *gratis*, for which a professional man would probably charge (and be justly entitled to) 20 or 25 guineas.

It is thus the profession is robbed, after paying perhaps individually three or four hundred pounds premium for learning it, by the folly of the young and inexperienced, and the cool complacency of the other party, who gets all he requires, and thinks, perhaps, he has given recompense enough, by "*admiring* his taste," and adopting it without further acknowledgment.

This is what I call *stealing brains*, the *worst kind of robbery*.

I should wish to impress on my junior professional friends, that the more they do for nothing the more they may. "Ex nihilo nihil fit:" so if they do *one* job for *nothing*, the result is, that they will be expected to do *another* on the same terms.

Let them *not* "listen with credulity to the whispers of fancy, and pursue with eagerness the phantoms of hope."

Yours and their wellwisher,

June 24, 1843. IMLAC.

[We have no right to put ourselves seriously at issue with "Imlac," but we are none of those who fear any evil result from a business placed upon the footing which the one in question occupies. What nearer, let us ask, will the fraudulent be to the accomplishment of his object, by knowing something of the cost of the building? We like not too many cautions and suspicions, the country is broken down under them and their fruit—*craft* and *cunning*. We dislike all the professions involved in mottoes and secret competitions, for this reason; depend upon it, a good plan is seldom stolen—and a bad one is not worth it.—ED.]

Miscellanea.

ABBOTSLEY.—In this church, a considerable quantity of ancient stained glass was some time ago removed from one of the windows which was under repair. Instead of being duly replaced, the portion thus detached was actually deposited (as useless rubbish it would seem) at a public-house, where it was carried away piecemeal by any person who chose to help themselves. After lying here, as we are told by our informant, a resident near the spot, two or three years, the last was utterly destroyed by being set up to be pelted at by the boys. This is one of the countless proofs of the almost incredible ignorance, stupidity, and brutality of the church-destroyers of the last generation.—*Ecclesiologist.*

ELTISLEY.—The chancel of this ancient and interesting church has just been rebuilt, of curtailed proportions, in the cockney villa style, of brick, with a low-pitched, overhanging roof of blue slate. The east window is a most miserable erection of three lights, without any foliations.—*Ibid.*

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